

an outlet downstream of the inlet,

a first conveying path through the inlet arrangement extending from the inlet to the outlet, the first conveying path for conveying the preform body from and through the inlet to and through the outlet;

a first seal;

a closure member located downstream of the inlet and between the first seal and the outlet, the closure member selectively moveable between a closed position that closes and seals the first conveying path and an opened position that opens and unseals the first conveying path; and

an injector located downstream of the closure member and between the closure member and the outlet, the injector for injecting a gas into the first conveying path of the inlet arrangement; and

a furnace located downstream of the inlet arrangement and having a second conveying path aligned with the first conveying path for further conveying the preform body within the furnace; and

wherein the closure member, when in the closed position, seals off the injector and the furnace from the first seal.